

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

## Via Electronic Transmission

Nancy Atkins  
Commissioner  
West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services  
State of West Virginia  
350 Capitol Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear Commissioner Atkins:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in West Virginia's Medicaid program and what steps West Virginia takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how West Virginia's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;

- Risperdal;
- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to [Brian\\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov) or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member

Attachment

**Drug X, 2008**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

**Drug X, 2009**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Bureau for Medical Services

Commissioner's Office

350 Capitol Street - Room 251

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August 10, 2010

Joe Manchin III  
Governor

Patsy A. Hardy, FACHE, MSN, MBA  
Cabinet Secretary

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
United State Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Grassley:

This letter is written in response to your April 21, 2010, letter requesting that West Virginia Medicaid identify and report the top ten Medicaid prescribers of certain drugs. I, along with my staff, appreciate the fact that overutilization of prescription drugs contributes to the rising cost of Medicaid expenditures and inappropriate use of these agents can have devastating societal consequences. In order to minimize these negative effects, the Bureau for Medical Services, the sole state agency for Medicaid services in West Virginia, in conjunction with the federally mandated Drug Utilization Review and Retrospective Drug Utilization Review programs, works to educate prescribers and pharmacy providers when overutilization occurs or is suspected. Pharmacy claims are processed using a state-of-the-art system which recognizes and denies claims that are identified as duplications, excesses of evidence-based limitations, early refills, etc., in order to eliminate or reduce overutilization. In addition, over-utilizing members are placed in the pharmacy lock-in program which limits their access to one pharmacy provider for their Medicaid-covered drugs. In total, West Virginia Medicaid has been very successful in preventing and reducing overutilization of prescription drugs with resulting reduction in federal and state expenditures.

Enclosed, please find the information you requested. In order to preserve the integrity of our Medicaid providers and assure the continuation of provider participation for this vulnerable population, I respectfully request that the information be kept confidential. The release of information which specifically identifies physicians may result in unintended consequences for those physicians who provide medically necessary services while assuring quality of care within their specialties. With the current situation in our state, any loss of provider enrollment, particularly specialists, will negatively impact access to care for our members. Moreover, we already monitor the quality and integrity of our programs to help ensure proper utilization of Medicaid-paid services and a fair hearing for Medicaid providers.

Please feel free to telephone me at 304-558-1700 should you wish to discuss the West Virginia Medicaid prescriber data while we work together to combat waste, fraud, and abuse of the Medicaid Program.

Sincerely,

Nancy Y. Atkins, RN, MSN, NP-BC  
Commissioner

NVA/PK/lle

**West Virginia Medicaid**  
**Top 10 Prescribers for Selected Mental Health Drugs**  
**CY 2008 and 2009**

**ABILIFY** **2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1174537831	295	295	0	86	\$112,857.29
1659410322	268	268	0	106	\$94,078.33
1649326075	262	262	0	84	\$98,045.31
1376629592	194	194	0	52	\$77,188.47
BP1737470	189	189	0	66	\$72,973.17
1104965706	171	171	0	57	\$70,934.42
1316987001	150	150	0	52	\$60,052.39
BS9376535	144	144	0	56	\$50,199.88
1447239520	123	123	0	44	\$51,780.39
BS6238578	110	110	0	43	\$40,165.06

**GEODON** **2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1871579524	566	566	0	131	\$151,295.93
AH7362205	353	353	0	111	\$94,179.74
1154347607	301	301	0	67	\$64,430.33
1649356866	289	289	0	72	\$79,281.63
1649326075	276	276	0	73	\$67,654.55
1740394576	223	223	0	37	\$76,239.80
1699869428	221	221	0	42	\$69,233.44
1477540110	214	214	0	64	\$70,543.79
1174537831	198	198	0	45	\$76,879.70
1013933340	193	193	0	45	\$63,342.35

**OXYCONTIN** **2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1558356907	1,598	18	1,580	268	\$140,722.25
BR6941353	1,452	11	1,441	264	\$128,190.08
1942373923	1,013	136	877	126	\$123,122.00
1548328800	965	0	965	153	\$38,934.57
1275630097	948	7	941	167	\$84,462.89
1841268893	939	1	938	149	\$86,445.95
AS2295904	881	189	692	650	\$23,302.55
1619056124	750	5	745	79	\$67,068.39
1598821449	661	39	622	113	\$62,536.25
BK0854592	626	0	626	140	\$28,318.54

**RISPERDAL****2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1174537831	718	716	2	151	\$227,333.03
1659378354	633	629	4	162	\$109,574.82
1376629592	561	559	2	182	\$139,462.01
BP1737470	504	504	0	155	\$149,411.02
1659410322	470	466	4	128	\$108,945.54
1487793972	464	462	2	145	\$115,821.60
BG2383773	399	399	0	133	\$68,321.20
1265523039	340	337	3	71	\$57,667.93
AS2295904	337	337	0	127	\$76,091.27
1194833442	333	333	0	107	\$97,682.36

**ROXICODONE****2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1558356907	1,580	0	1,580	268	\$138,088.39
BR6941353	1,441	0	1,441	262	\$127,421.03
1548328800	965	0	965	153	\$38,934.57
1275630097	941	0	941	167	\$83,164.73
1841268893	938	0	938	149	\$85,970.73
1942373923	877	0	877	126	\$63,880.35
1819056124	745	0	745	79	\$62,515.42
AS2295904	692	0	692	533	\$18,266.05
BK0854592	626	0	626	140	\$28,318.54
1598821449	622	0	622	112	\$42,198.12

**SEROQUEL****2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1174537831	723	723	0	166	\$223,961.62
1871579524	566	566	0	142	\$100,949.16
BP1737470	508	508	0	179	\$146,120.63
1649356866	409	409	0	97	\$74,305.52
AH7362205	407	407	0	124	\$71,539.95
1477540110	348	348	0	104	\$81,604.62
1790729028	340	340	0	80	\$80,614.01
1053339135	340	340	0	64	\$78,637.94
1720021447	337	337	0	120	\$70,202.30
1659410322	318	318	0	100	\$62,010.57
1073546545	318	318	0	92	\$75,098.33

**XANAX 2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1053339135	2,006	0	2,006	342	\$24,943.94
BH0267890	1,869	0	1,869	349	\$19,161.34
1841268893	1,802	0	1,802	265	\$19,772.56
BA2309385	1,664	0	1,664	319	\$14,710.56
BD3151040	1,434	0	1,434	313	\$18,280.14
1821152182	1,337	0	1,337	309	\$9,714.94
1518005511	1,278	0	1,278	351	\$12,866.85
1427158484	1,229	0	1,229	236	\$10,398.35
1629020326	1,208	0	1,208	327	\$10,119.70
1871579524	1,082	0	1,082	192	\$11,567.82

**ZYPREXA 2008**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1194833442	132	132	0	32	\$96,388.56
1659410322	117	117	0	42	\$54,129.86
1124167531	111	111	0	22	\$94,471.53
1184726804	108	108	0	20	\$80,463.33
1891768446	102	102	0	18	\$51,519.98
1831156058	92	92	0	18	\$44,552.24
1679599906	84	84	0	20	\$46,736.86
1063526861	83	83	0	13	\$48,381.85
BS8031801	77	77	0	22	\$53,639.39
1194739938	77	77	0	11	\$40,765.91
1235152299	77	77	0	13	\$40,810.70

**ABILIFY 2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1649326075	607	607	0	142	\$267,532.60
1174537831	448	448	0	107	\$183,577.33
1104965706	395	395	0	110	\$176,380.59
1659410322	359	359	0	123	\$137,365.16
1447239520	334	334	0	86	\$141,564.41
1376629592	330	330	0	94	\$132,103.41
1013933340	214	214	0	61	\$96,470.06
1124167531	207	207	0	34	\$104,675.05
1184771016	203	203	0	70	\$80,302.19
1194833442	200	200	0	40	\$95,601.29

**GEODON****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1871579524	858	858	0	165	\$259,893.54
1154347607	558	558	0	122	\$133,228.07
1649356866	413	413	0	77	\$123,964.65
1649326075	408	408	0	83	\$128,808.76
1174537831	368	368	0	65	\$163,647.86
1699889428	329	329	0	47	\$116,721.86
1477540110	328	328	0	67	\$121,670.29
1487614004	306	306	0	50	\$125,396.35
1790729028	284	284	0	48	\$97,978.17
1740394576	282	282	0	45	\$111,104.76

**OXYCONTIN****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1942373923	2,118	262	1,856	167	\$225,921.60
1558356907	1,941	36	1,905	277	\$137,800.56
1548328800	1,208	0	1,208	161	\$44,463.70
1619056124	1,173	11	1,162	84	\$75,849.01
1598821449	1,099	91	1,008	114	\$100,251.29
1457313025	933	113	820	116	\$93,207.58
1124088380	872	0	872	232	\$64,906.62
1144221714	645	31	614	134	\$25,118.51
1265508774	634	0	634	64	\$36,832.25
1720071285	613	20	593	93	\$35,933.78

**RISPERDAL****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1376629592	1,048	8	1,040	272	\$58,077.09
1174537831	1,017	69	948	172	\$102,972.59
1487793972	816	4	812	174	\$44,421.86
1265523039	721	9	712	168	\$30,625.33
1649326075	676	15	661	183	\$37,503.48
1194833442	651	33	618	166	\$48,570.88
1659378354	594	49	545	127	\$33,466.31
1487614004	576	50	526	111	\$35,879.70
1790729028	529	53	476	71	\$49,745.29
1699889428	525	23	502	67	\$42,460.68



**ROXICODONE****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1558356907	1,915	7	1,908	277	\$131,898.85
1942373923	1,858	2	1,856	167	\$101,474.68
1548328800	1,216	8	1,208	161	\$44,762.54
1619056124	1,162	0	1,162	84	\$62,229.69
1598821449	1,009	1	1,008	113	\$53,066.67
1124088380	872	0	872	232	\$64,906.62
1457313025	820	0	820	116	\$53,547.32
1265508774	635	1	634	64	\$36,894.61
1144221714	614	0	614	130	\$24,887.88
1275630097	596	0	596	106	\$43,095.20

**SEROQUEL****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1174537831	973	973	0	163	\$326,799.46
1871579524	852	852	0	166	\$173,569.68
1649326075	718	718	0	159	\$171,128.64
1649356866	671	671	0	173	\$147,597.48
1073546545	660	660	0	122	\$175,584.81
1104965706	559	559	0	138	\$146,169.03
1598725285	553	553	0	164	\$134,869.56
1720021447	550	550	0	140	\$139,929.63
1053339135	524	524	0	73	\$141,252.62
1699889428	505	505	0	98	\$138,260.59

**XANAX****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1053339135	3,691	0	3,691	354	\$39,384.65
1629020326	3,342	0	3,342	442	\$25,716.49
1518005511	2,533	0	2,533	407	\$22,731.45
1013933340	2,011	0	2,011	277	\$22,869.13
1821152182	1,983	0	1,983	386	\$14,253.56
1144221714	1,919	0	1,919	330	\$16,999.30
1871579524	1,862	0	1,862	245	\$17,661.60
1649356866	1,761	0	1,761	220	\$17,656.18
1902838824	1,751	0	1,751	202	\$14,271.80
1598725285	1,728	0	1,728	385	\$16,002.73

**ZYPREXA****2009**

Provider Identifier	Total Prescriptions	Brand Prescriptions	Generic Prescriptions	Total Unique Members	Paid Amount
1184726804	212	212	0	30	\$162,029.61
1194833442	204	204	0	46	\$160,013.60
1245335603	182	182	0	42	\$107,936.09
1104965706	180	180	0	46	\$95,792.36
1679599906	157	157	0	22	\$84,691.89
1891768446	152	152	0	16	\$76,328.26
1417096009	140	140	0	54	\$77,019.07
1124167531	137	137	0	18	\$131,662.80
1174537831	131	131	0	22	\$76,490.61
1639118557	127	127	0	18	\$89,293.35